

This Week on the Peak



Mission Peak UU - Fremont, CA The Home of Liberal Religion in the Tri-Cities and Beyond! December 15, 2021

Greetings!

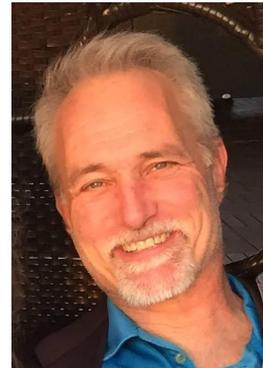
I've often cursed the *genius* who came up with the slogan, 'hurry up and wait' and stuck it right in the middle of this lead in to Christmas. Since I was little, I've had a hard time waiting. Especially for things like Christmas where there are gifts to unwrap.

Nowadays, I feel the same way about eating dessert, going on vacation, packages being delivered, reunions with dear friends and justice. It's painful to wait. And yet, that is what this season of advent is all about.

Advent, from the Latin *adventus*, means 'coming.' It's a time of preparation. We are asked to ready our world and ready ourselves; because, it is more than just slapping things together to exist alongside each other unchanged. It's about catalyzing one another for genuine cohesion. Authentic integration. There needs to be some alchemy where the things coming together are changed by each other.

We as a community have been changing. Our world is changing around us. And although, along with you, I can feel the 'why-can't-we-get-where-we're-going-already' feeling, I have been deeply appreciating the patience and the wonder and the hope and the bringing together of heat and warmth that makes this cold and dark time so creative and magical. I saw it in our Saturday evening potluck and games night. I've seen it in our poetry groups, in the Midweek discussions, our Anti-racism group, and in the way people have reached out to those feeling the pain of change.

My prayer is that we use this time to prepare for the salve of understanding that comes with deeper conversations – the ones where we are asked to share our stories which become part of a larger story. Whatever traditions you celebrate, I hope they bring out the best in you. That's how we will discover the best in us.



Rev Greg Ward (he, him, his)
minister@mpuuc.org

This Sunday's Service:

We have transitioned to hybrid services. See mpuuc.org/zoom each week for how to attend services.



A Star is Born

Nearly 15 years ago, Rev. Michael Dowd (who spoke to us in the spring) and others started introducing concepts such as 'Big Time'. They wrestled away from us a very rigid relationship between time and history (that placed human beings at the center) and replaced it with a cosmology that is much bigger than us. What if we were to explore our past - and our future - through such a cosmic timeline? Would we still find light in the time of darkness? Birth in an unexpected place?

Rev. Greg Ward will lead the service and assisting will be Worship Associate Mark Rahman. Worship Host will be Erik Alm. Peak Rocks will provide our music.

Whether you are attending services in Cole Hall or remotely you can donate money and/or fulfill your pledge in the 3 ways shown below:

Mail check to

Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation
P.O. Box 545
Fremont, CA 94537-0545

(If you use Bill Pay with your bank, you could use them to mail the check)

Drop envelope with check or cash in Mission Peak UU mail slot addressed to:
Mission Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation
We will be collecting this once per week.

Pay on line at <https://mpuuc.org/contact-us/donate/> with credit or debit card.
Note we use PayPal for this and they charge us around 3%.

If you are attending services in Cole Hall we will provide envelopes so you can donate money by placing checks or cash in the office mail slot.

OK, I'm ready for Sunday services at Cole Hall!



Why Is Cole Hall So Cold??

Because it is 4 times harder for Covid-19 to spread when there is good air circulation, we are currently keeping all doors open during Sunday services. We may close 1 or 2 if there is a lot of wind or rain. We are providing what heat we can, but please dress warmly. We are sorry for the necessity! -- MPUUC Covid-19 Task Force.

Safety Policy for Hybrid Services in Cole Hall

When we have volunteers to support a hybrid service we will provide three ways to attend the service — via Zoom, sitting inside Cole Hall, or sitting on the patio outside Cole Hall. Our worship leaders will either be inside Cole Hall or use Zoom to connect to the service in Cole Hall

Attendees should be masked inside and outside of Cole Hall during the service. **Because it is becoming apparent that vaccinated people can still spread the disease to others, we strongly encourage those in contact with children, and unvaccinated or immunocompromised adults to attend services outside or via Zoom.** We allow worship leaders, associates, and other service participants to be unmasked while speaking if they voluntarily disclose they are vaccinated and are 10ft apart from others who are not fully vaccinated.

The [board Safety Policy on how we allow services in Cole Hall](#) is in the “[About->Congregational Documents](#)” section of the mpuuc.org web site. If you wonder how we are trying to keep us all safe as we gather together again, please read it. We expect to continue to monitor what is safe and make changes as needed.

We also have other board policies related to Covid-19 in section 18 of the board policies document, which is also in the “[About->Congregational Documents](#)” section of the website. [The outdoor event guidelines in section 18.2](#) will control how we would be able to have food or drinks outside after the service, or for special events. Contact Steve Wallcave with any questions about either safety policy.

[Please volunteer to help us meet in Cole Hall every Sunday starting June 20th. Contact Jen King to volunteer.](#)

Midweek Discussion Group

The Minister’s Midweek Discussion Group meets on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. This week’s discussion will be about Birth Stories. Christmas is A birth story. But it’s sometimes important to realize it is not THE birth story. There are many others. The link to the

conversation can be found if you [Press here](#) Next week's discussion will ask us to reimagine the Journey to Bethlehem and what we think it would look like if it happened today – in 2021

Save the date

Christmas Eve will bring an exciting and relevant story of lessons and carols. We will start at 5:00 p.m. on December 24th in Cole Hall. We will hear a little bit about what it would be like if the journey to Bethlehem were held today – right here in Fremont. Come prepared to sing and carry the joy to the only place it can be born – in our hearts and in our times together.

Board Briefs

The board met on Wednesday, December 8:

- Discussed the upcoming Courageous Conversation meetings on January 9 on Children's RE and on January 30 on Congregational leadership
- Approved the update of the COVID-19 safety policy for food after services and at special events
- Approved the Encouragement Committee charter
- Reassigned the President-Elect's committee liaisons
- Brainstormed possible Fellowship events
- Approved Canvass/Stewardship focal points: ARO, Fellowship, and Outreach/Membership
- Discussed replacement of the President-Elect, who has resigned effective December 31st.



The next board meeting is on Wednesday, January 12 at 7 p.m.

For complete board minutes or other board info go to the Members Only section of our web site at mpuuc.org/about-us/members-only

For more details about meetings or questions email president@mpuuc.org

Have fun while supporting local charities!

One of Fremont's largest, oldest, and most festive Christmas displays **Crippsmas Place** is open through December 31. Walk or drive through this cheerful neighborhood any evening where homemade decorations of cartoon and animated movie characters show their Christmas spirit in bright lights and colors. This winter wonderland is a fun holiday tradition for almost 40 years!



Candy canes will be given out and cash donations for this charity fundraiser will be accepted. We're delighted the Crippsmas Club has named the Fremont Family Resource Center as one of their recipients this year which will benefit our **Giving Hope Urgent Needs Fund** as described by FRC Administrator Judy Schwartz in this short [video](#).

Crippsmas Place is now through December 31 from 6 - 10 p.m. You'll find over 50 houses decorated in this north Fremont neighborhood. Click [here](#) for a map.

Afghan Refugee Help Fund

The City of Fremont's Human Services Department continues to raise funds to provide assistance to newly-arriving Afghan refugees or those still in Afghanistan in unsafe conditions.

You can make a donation to the **Afghan Refugee Help Fund** by visiting their website at www.fremont.gov/ARHelp.



VIRTUAL Las Posadas 2021

Fremont's annual multi-faith Las Posadas music festival is on zoom again this year. It is nine evenings, 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. December 15th through 23rd, of seasonal music with a short re-enactment of Joseph and Mary knocking on the door of the inn. Our Peak Performers is providing the music on Sunday evening Dec. 19th, and members and friends of MPUUC are participating in the music on five other nights. For a schedule of the events, and to request the zoom link, email LasPosadasFCAC@earthlink.net by noon of the first day you wish to listen.

Help with Rent or Utilities Due to COVID?

Our **Keep Fremont Housed** rental assistance program has already helped hundreds of Fremont families affected by COVID-19.



Funds are still available to help more families! If you or someone you know is having trouble paying rent or utilities due to COVID-19, or if you are a landlord who is owed rent, visit <https://www.fremont.gov/keepfremonthoused>

Please Join Us For General Assembly 2022!

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists for conducting business of the Association, exploring the theological underpinnings of our faith, and leaning fully into our mission and principles.

In 2022, we will have the option of meeting online or in-person! For those who enjoyed the convenience and accessibility of remote participation, General Assembly will continue to offer a virtual experience with robust programming and enhanced delegate discussion tools. For those who miss the in-person experience, GA 2022 offers opportunities to reconnect with friends old and new, local site attractions, and more! **Join us June 22 - 26, 2022 online or in-person in Portland, Oregon.**

View the [2022 Summary Schedule!](#)

Register Now for In-Person GA 2022!

Registration is now open for in-person attendance. Full-time registration is \$475 for adults, and \$250 for high school youth and retired and candidate ministers. [Financial support](#) for registration, lodging credit within the [GA room block](#), as well as a payment plan are available. In-person registration rates will increase on March 1 and again on May 1. **Registration for virtual participation will open March 1. Click [here](#) to register.**



Walking with Uncertainty

Labyrinth Walk to observe the Winter Solstice

Sunday, December 26, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

Facilitated by Joy T. Barnitz, M.Div.

Veriditas Certified Labyrinth Facilitator

at Saint Anne's Episcopal Church

2791 Driscoll Rd, Fremont, CA 94539

Masks required

ACT NOW!

Call your Elected Officials!

Calls can make a difference! Contact your representatives to alert them to your views!

Representative Eric Swalwell 510-247-1388 or go to [house.gov](https://www.house.gov)

Representative Ro Khanna (202) 225-2631

Senator Alex Padilla (202) 224-3553

Senator Dianne Feinstein (202) 224-3841





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